

## Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SCCT-02 SY-04 EB-11 AID-20 USSS-00 DRC-01

/130 W

----- 067189

R 270600Z AUG 74

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8322

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL LAHORE

UNCLAS KARACHI 1754

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PK

SUBJECT: KEROSENE TANK CARS BURNED IN QUETTA RAILWAY  
YARDS

1. TWO RAILWAY TANK CARS CONTAINING 30,000 GALLONS OF KEROSENE EXPLODED AND BURNED IN QUETTA RAILWAY YARD AND A THIRD TANK CAR AND OTHER ROLLING STOCK WERE DAMAGED AT ABOUT 2000 HOURS AUG 24, 1974. BLAST ACKNOWLEDGED BY PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TO HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY SABOTAGE. KARACHI NEWSPAPERS WHICH GAVE INCIDENT FRONT PAGE COVERAGE (WITH PHOTOGRAPH IN "DAWN"), REPORTED THAT EXPLOSION WAS HEARD ALL OVER THE CITY AND THAT BLAZE WAS THE BIGGEST EVER SEEN IN QUETTA, TAKING FIRE-FIGHTERS MORE THAN TWO HOURS TO CONTROL. RAILWAY TRAFFIC BETWEEN QUETTA AND CHAMAN REMAINED SUSPENDED FOR SOME HOURS.

2. PRESS REPORTED AUG 26 THAT TWO PERSONS WERE ARRESTED THE SAME DAY AND A THIRD ON AUG 25, WHO WERE DESCRIBED AS RESPONSIBLE FOR BLAST. AN INQUIRY COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF RAILWAY OFFICIALS HAS ALSO BEEN APPOINTED AND ASKED TO REPORT WITHIN FIFTEEN DAYS.

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3. BALUCHISTAN CHIEF MINISTER, JAM GHULAN QADIR KHAN, TOLD NEWSMEN IN QUETTA AUG 25 THAT SUCH INCIDENTS WOULD NO LONGER BE TOLERATED AND THAT STRONGEST POSSIBLE MEASURES WOULD BE ADOPTED AT A HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD SAME DAY. SOME OFFICIALS WOULD BE SCREENED OUT AND A FEW PUNISHED FOR THEIR RESPONSIBILITY IN ALLOWING SABOTEURS ACCESS TO RAILWAY YARDS. ASKED BY NEWSMEN TO CLARIFY HIS STATEMENT THAT THE "LAW AND ORDER SITUATION WAS NORMAL", THE CHIEF MINISTER SAID THAT THE EXPLOSION WAS AN INCIDENT OF "SUBVERSION" AND DID NOT COME WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF "LAW AND ORDER".

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ONE IN CONTINUING SERIES OF INCIDENTS, THIS WAS THE MOST SPECTACULAR IN RECENT MEMORY. AS A VISIBLE DEMONSTRATION OF DISSIDENT ACTIVITY IN BALUCHISTAN THE EXPLOSION WAS HIGHLY EFFECTIVE AND NO DOUBT EMBARRASSING TO PROVINCIAL AS WELL AS CENTRAL GOVTS. A TOP PETROLEUM COMPANY EXECUTIVE HERE WHO WAS CONTACTED BY QUETTA AUTHORITIES IMMEDIATELY AFTER BLAST CONFIRMS THERE IS NO QUESTION OF FUEL SHORTAGE IN BALUCHISTAN AS RESULT OF BLAST SINCE MORE TANK CARS CAN BE DISPATCHED IN 24 HOURS. TIGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BALUCHISTAN, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, ROLLING STOCK  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 AUG 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**TAGS:** PINS, BGEN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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